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PERSONAL.

Prof. W. Scherer, late of University of Berlin (whose lamented death has received special notice in these columns) entrusted the charge of the American publication of his History of German Literature (cf. MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES Nos. 5 and 6, pp. 71, 98.) to Prof. W. T. Hewett, of The Cornell University, who made all arrangements for its appearance in this country.

Francis H. Stoddard has been appointed University Instructor for English at the University of California. Mr. Stoddard, a native of Middlebury, Vt., is the son of S. Stoddard, former Professor of Latin in Middlebury College, one of the authors of Andrews and Stoddard's Latin Grammar. He was graduated at Amherst College in 1869, after which he was a successful teacher of boys for some years. The past five years he has spent in special study, mainly of Middle English, and for the last two years he studied at the University of Oxford, England. He is the author of several articles in the *New Englander* and other Reviews, among which may be mentioned 'Women in the English Universities' (*New Englander*, vol. IX. pp. 573-593).

Dr. Gustaf Karsten (Heidelberg) has recently been elected Professor of the Romance department of the University of Indiana (Bloomington), to succeed in that office, Prof. Garner at the opening of the next academic year. Dr. Karsten has already, by several valuable contributions, made himself favorably known to the readers of this journal. It may be added that he was formerly a pupil of Profs. Neumann, Paul, Sievers, Osthoff, etc., and that upon receiving his degree in 1884 at Freiburg, presented a thesis: "*Zur geschichte der altfranzösischen Consonantenverbindungen*," which has received special mention in Brugmann's Greek Grammar. Dr. Karsten is now called to America from active service at the University of Geneva (Switzerland) where, in the capacity of *Privat Docent*, he has with acknowledged success established courses in modern philology. The University of Indiana is to be congratulated upon the acquisition of a sound scholar and a superior teacher who comes prepared to further the highest interests of American scholarship.

Alphonse N. van Daell has been appointed Director of Modern Languages for the Boston High and Latin Schools. Prof. van Daell is a native of Belgium, where (Liège) he passed his first examination (Gradué en Lettres) in 1864 and studied for two Semesters at Louvain. In 1868 he received the degree of Docteur en Droit at Liège, and afterward attended lectures in Berlin, Bonn and Paris. On coming to this country in 1873, he taught for a while in private schools in New York City, and was called in 1876 to the chair of Modern Languages in Kentucky College, where he remained three years. He then moved to Philadelphia and taught in the Friends' Central School and in the Wellesley Preparatory School until 1885, when he was appointed Instructor for French at Haverford College, Pa., and at the same time he delivered lectures on French Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. These positions he held till he entered upon his present duties. He is the author of the following publications:

1. A Monograph. The Study of Modern Languages.
2. La Parole Française.
3. Das Deutsche Buch.

Number 2 was written in connection with Dr. Sauveur; number 3, with Miss Schrakamp, of New York.

OBITUARY.

Louis Habel, A.M., Ph.D., Professor of Modern Languages and Chemistry in the Norwich University, Northfield, Vt., died on the 8th of September of tuberculosis. Dr. Habel was born in 1854, at Hastings, on the Hudson, as second son of Dr. S. Habel, the South American Explorer. He completed the Freshman year at the College of the City of New York, then went to Austria where he passed through the ordinary Gymnasium curriculum, after which he studied for two years at the University of Vienna. He next worked under Prof. Bunsen for a year and a half at Heidelberg, where he took his Doctor's degree in 1879, and thereupon was appointed First Assistant in the Physiological Laboratory at the University of Bonn, being engaged especially in the chemical department. This position he held for one year (1880-81) when he returned to America, and in 1882 was called to Norwich University, where he remained up to his death in the capacity mentioned above. Besides being the author of several papers written on subjects connected with chemistry, he was the Editor of the 'Scientific Review,' a journal devoted chiefly to the interests of chemistry. He had an extensive practical knowledge of languages, speaking French, German, Bohemian, Russian and Hungarian.